

**RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 20-1, 42-17.1, 42-17.2 and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) proposes rulemaking relative to the **RI Hunting Regulations For The Waterfowl Season 2011-2012 RI Falconry Regulations for the 2011-2012 Season, Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists , and Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation** and gives notice of intent to hold a public hearing to afford interested parties the opportunity for public comment. Public comments will be solicited on the following proposals:

1. **Proposed adoption of the RI Falconry Regulations for the 2011-2012 Season**
2. **Proposed adoption of the RI Hunting Regulations For The Waterfowl Season 2011-2012**
3. **Proposed adoption of the Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists**
4. **Proposed adoption of the Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation**

The public hearing will be held on **Monday, August 29, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.** at the North Kingstown Community Center on Beach Street in North Kingstown (off Rt. 1A, just south of Wickford). The hearing room is accessible to the handicapped. A recording of the hearing will be made and the DEM will provide interpreter services for the hearing impaired, provided such a request is made at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling (401) 222-6800 for TDD (401) 831-5508. Written comments concerning the regulations proposed for promulgation by the DEM may also be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 227 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892 no later than 12:00 PM **on August 29 2011.**

The proposed regulations will establish applicable hunting seasons, bag limits, and methods of taking migratory waterfowl, the practice of falconry, amend rules and regulations for nuisance wildlife control., and amend rules and regulations governing wildlife rehabilitation. A copy of all the proposed regulations will be available for examination from **July 29, 2011 through August 29, 2011** by mail or at the offices of the Division of Fish and Wildlife located at 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892, weekdays from 8:30 – 4:00 PM or by calling the Division at (401) 789-0281. Electronic copies of the proposed regulations will also be available on the DEM website at [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/index.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/index.htm)

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations. DEM has considered alternative approaches to the proposed regulations and has determined that there is no alternative approach among the alternatives considered that would be as effective and less burdensome. DEM has determined that the proposed regulations do not overlap/duplicate any other State regulations. DEM has determined the proposed regulations will not result in a significant adverse economic impact on small businesses or any city or town. DEM encourages the submission of written comments on the proposed regulations and above determinations prior to the date of the public hearing. All written comments should be sent to the Department at the address indicated above and should be received no later than 12:00 PM on **August 29, 2011.**

Janet Coit  
Director, Department of Environmental Management

***State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations***  
***Department of Administration***  
***Budget Office***

Fiscal Note for Proposed Administrative Rules (R.I.G.L. Section 22-12-1.1)

**Name of Administrative Rule: State of Rhode Island**  
**Department of Environmental Management**

**Date of Notice:** July 28, 2011

**Date of Hearing:** August 29, 2011

RIGL: These regulations are authorized pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1, 20-1, 20-3, and 2-6 as amended, and have been promulgated pursuant to the procedures set forth in the R.I. Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

<i>Revenues</i>		<i>State Expenditures</i>		<i>City/Town Expenditures</i>	
FY 2011	\$ 0	FY 2011	\$ 0	FY 2011	\$ 0
FY 2012	\$ 0	FY 2012	\$ 0	FY 2012	\$ 0

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**Summary of Policy Change:** The proposed amendments would amend the regulations governing falconry, seasons and bag limits for waterfowl hunting activities; dates and access availability for recreational users only, rules and regulations for nuisance wildlife control specialists, and wildlife rehabilitators.

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** There will be no deleterious fiscal effects due to the amendment of these regulations on the state level.

**City or Town Impact:** There should be no impact at the municipal level .

Approved:

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Thomas A. Mullaney, Executive Director/State Budget Officer  
Department of Administration



**RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508

July 28, 2011

**TO:** Peter Dennehy, RI Department of Administration  
Sherri Lynn Carrera, RI Economic Development Corporation  
Kerry King, Office of the Governor

**FROM:** Gary Powers, Deputy Chief, Legal Services  
Department of Environmental Management

**SUBJECT: Economic Impact and Regulatory Flexibility**

**Relevant Regulations Affected:**

- 1. RI Hunting Regulations for the Waterfowl Season 2011-2012**
- 2. RI Falconry Regulations for the 2011-2012 Season**
- 3. Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists**
- 4. Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation**

**Authority:**

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations: These regulations are adopted in accordance with Sections 20-1-4, 20-1-12 and 20-1-13, 20-2-35, 20-2-37 as well as Chapters 42-17.1 and 42-17.6, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 42-35, Administrative Procedures Act of the General Laws of 1956, as amended.

Falconry Regulations : These regulations are adopted in accordance with Sections 20-1-4, 20-1-12, and 20-1-13, as well as Chapter 42-17.1 "DEM", 42-17.6, consistent with the requirements of 42-35, Administrative Procedures Act of the General Laws of 1956, as amended.

Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists: These regulations are adopted in accordance with Sections 20-1-18 and 20-1-22 as well as Chapter 42-35 , Administrative Procedures Act of the General Laws of 1956, as amended.

Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation: These regulations are adopted in accordance with Sections 20-1-4, 20-1-18, 20-1-22, 20-37-3 as well as Chapters 42-17.1 "DEM", 42-17.6 consistent with the requirements of 42-35, Administrative Procedures Act of the General Laws of 1956, as amended.

**Summary of Proposed Regulation Changes:**

The Waterfowl Hunting Regulations are required pursuant to RIGL §20-1-13 to remain in effect for no longer than one year following their effective date. As such, the Department is required to promulgate these regulations annually. Regulation changes pertain to calendar date changes, hunting season and bag limits. RI Falconry Regulation changes pertain to date changes only. The Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control changes pertain to the species identification and requirements for the rehabilitation of orphaned rabies vector species and the means allowed for the taking of nuisance animals. The Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation changes pertain to sub-permittee prohibitions

regarding handling raptors and rabies-vector species, Level 1 apprenticeship requirements, application requirements, non rabies vector rehabilitated release exceptions, and rabies vector orphaned, young rehabilitation exceptions.

**Where to find the specific language changes: Drafts [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)**

- 1. RI Hunting Regulations for the Waterfowl Season 2010-2011 – Newly Adopted**
- 2. RI Falconry Regulations for the 2010-2011 Season – Newly Adopted**
- 3. Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists – Newly Adopted**
- 4. Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation – Newly Adopted**

**Economic Impact:**

Per RIGL §42-35.1-3

1. The proposed regulations for waterfowl and falconry governs recreational sporting activities. The Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialist regulations and the Wildlife Rehabilitation regulations concern the handling and disposition of nuisance species and rehabilitation species candidates and the impact upon species populations and public health. The Department believes that none of its proposed rule making has a potential for causing a direct financial impact upon either small business or any municipality.
2. There are no anticipated reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed rules.
3. DEM has not identified a less intrusive or less costly alternative method to achieve the requirements mandated upon the Department to regulate the natural resources of this State.

**Regulatory Flexibility:**

Per RIGL §42-35.1-4

DEM has considered, without limitation, each of the following methods of reducing the impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses and determined that there is no alternative approach that would be as effective and less burdensome, given the requirements of upon the Department to regulate the natural resources of this State:

- 1) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- 2) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- 3) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- 4) The establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and
- 5) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the proposed regulation .

These rules to implement the Tolling Statute will likely aid small businesses by foregoing the cost and time associated with reapplication for permits that would otherwise have expired prior to June 30, 2011.

If you have any questions or comments on the proposed Rules, please contact one of the following:

Larry Mouradjian, Assistant Director

[Christine.Dudley@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Christine.Dudley@dem.ri.gov)

401-222-4700 Ext 2414

Gary Powers, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel

[Gary.powers@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Gary.powers@dem.ri.gov)

401-222-4700 Ext 2308

July 28, 2011

**NOTIFICATION FORM  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY IMPACT AND REGULATORY  
FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS**

**Title of Regulation:** RHODE ISLAND HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR THE  
WATERFOWL SEASON 2011-2012

RHODE ISLAND FALCONRY REGULATIONS FOR  
THE 2011-2012 SEASON

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING NUISANCE WILDLIFE  
CONTROL SPECIALISTS

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING WILDLIFE  
REHABILITATION

**Statutory Authority:** RIGL Chapter 31.1 SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS IN  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

**The Regulation:**

The purposed rule changes would amend the regulations governing the seasons and bag limits for waterfowl hunting activities, falconry regulations and access availability for recreational users only. The proposed changes for wildlife control specialists and rehabilitators would amend the qualifications of operators and requirements as to the handling of species.

**Expected Small Business Impact:**

There will be no deleterious effects on small businesses. The proposed regulations will, if anything, improve the financial climate for small businesses that might assist recreational users in the increase in trade of needed commodities.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:**

The RIDFW has determined that no small businesses may be impacted by the proposed regulations.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

**RI HUNTING REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
WATERFOWL SEASON  
2011 – 2012**



**Draft August 29, 2011**

**AUTHORITY:** These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-17.2 "DEM"; Sections 20-1-4; 20-1-12; 20-1-13; 20-2-35; 20-2-37; in accordance with Chapter 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR

**RI Waterfowl Regulations for the 2011-2012 Season**

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR

**RI Waterfowl Season  
2011-2012**

**RULE 1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish waterfowl hunting seasons, the setting of possession and bag limits, and regulation of the manner of hunting.

**RULE 2 AUTHORITY**

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Sections 20-1-4; 20-1-12; 20-1-13; 20-2-35; 20-2-37; and in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

**RULE 3 APPLICATION**

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purposes of state law, goals, and policies.

**RULE 4 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

**RULE 5 SUPERSEDED RULES AND REGULATIONS (SOS #2617)**

On the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, all previous Rules and Regulations, and any policies regarding the administration and enforcement of RIGL Sections 20-1-4, 20-1-12, 20-1-13, and in accordance with Chapter 42-35 Administrative Procedures Act shall be superseded **(SOS # 2617)**. However, any enforcement action taken by, or application submitted to, the Department prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations in effect at the time the enforcement action was taken, or application filed.

**RULE 6 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of these regulations, the following term shall have the following meaning:

**"Coastal waters" mean** high tide

**RULE 7 REGULATIONS**

As follows:



# **RULE 7 - REGULATIONS**

## **PART 1**

### **GENERAL WATERFOWL REGULATIONS**

#### **2011-2012**

Rules and Regulations: Seasons and bag limits for the taking of migratory waterfowl, the methods of taking, and regulations for waterfowl hunting statewide and within certain state management areas and cooperative private land units, 2011 - 2012. All proposed seasons and bag limits are subject to change(s) in accordance with federal seasons and framework alternatives.

The 2011 - 2012 waterfowl season for ducks will be 60 days in length with a six (6) bird bag limit -- possession limit is twice the daily bag limit or twelve (12).

#### **1.1 SEA DUCKS**

The season for sea ducks (scoter, eiders, long-tailed duck) shall be October 8, 2011 – January 22, 2012, inclusive. Except for the periods October 7-10; November 23-27; and December 3, 2011 – January 22, 2012 may be taken only in the Special Sea Duck Hunting Areas. These areas are seaward of the first upstream bridge, which includes Washington Bridge in the Seekonk River; Mt. Hope Bridge in Mt. Hope Bay; and Sakonnet Bridge in the Sakonnet River. Sea ducks taken in areas outside of these areas during the regular duck season will be considered as part of the regular daily six (6) bird bag limit.

#### **1.2 DUCKS, COOTS, MERGANSERS**

The season for ducks, coots, and mergansers shall be October 7-10, 2011, inclusive, November 23-27, 2011; and December 3, 2011 – January 22, 2012, inclusive.

Harlequin Ducks shall be closed.

#### **1.3 DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS**

1.3.1 **SEA DUCKS** - The daily bag limit shall be five (5), only four (4) of which may be scoters, eiders, or long-tailed ducks; the possession limit is ten (10), only eight (8) of which may be scoters, eiders, or long-tailed ducks.

1.3.2 **DUCKS** - The daily bag limit shall be six (6) including no more than four (4) mallards of which two (2) may be a hen mallard, three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, one (1) black duck, two (2) pintails, one (1) canvasback, and two (2) scaup. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

1.3.3 **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** - The season is closed on harlequin ducks.

1.3.4 **COOTS** - The daily bag and possession limit on coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

1.3.5 **MERGANSERS** - The daily bag limit on mergansers is five (5), only two (2)

of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is ten (10), only four (4) of which may be hooded mergansers. Five (5) mergansers may be taken in addition to the regular duck bag of six (6) ducks.

#### **1.4 CANADA GEESE & SNOW GEESE**

1.4.1 Canada Geese - Regular Season - Sixty (60) days with two (2)-bird bag limit and a four (4)-bird possession. November 19-27, 2011 and December 3, 2011 - January 22, 2012. Special permits and reservations required for South Shore Management Area.

1.4.2 Late Season - January 27 – February 12, 2012.

Seventeen (17) days with five (5)-bird bag limit and ten (10) birds in possession. Limited to Providence and Kent Counties and portions of Exeter and North Kingstown as depicted on a map created by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Special permit required, obtainable at Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp, Field Headquarters.

1.4.3 Snow Geese including blue geese - The daily bag limit shall be fifteen (15) birds for the season; October 8, 2010 – January 22, 2012. No possession limit.

#### **1.5 BRANT**

The season for brant shall be fifty (50) days, December 4, 2011 - January 22, 2012, inclusive. The daily bag limit shall be two (2) and the possession limit shall be four (4).

#### **1.6. SWANS**

No season.

#### **1.7. SHOOTING HOURS**

Shooting hours for all species are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

#### **1.8. NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENTS (STEEL SHOT, BISMUTH SHOT, and TUNGSTEN) REGULATIONS**

No person shall take or attempt to take waterfowl within the State of Rhode Island, including Narragansett Bay and all its coastal waters, to the three-mile limit, while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, or tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron shot and other non-toxic shot types as approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Steel, bismuth, or tungsten shot larger than BB is prohibited; including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB. Tin shot is prohibited.

#### **1.9 CLOSED AREAS**

1.9.1 Providence, East Providence, Pawtucket - That portion of the Seekonk River north of the railroad bridge (a.k.a. Red Bridge) to a line across the Seekonk River running between the intersection of Gulf Road and River Drive (Providence side) to the southerly abutment of the railroad bridge at the outlet of Omega Pond (East Providence side), shall be closed to waterfowl hunting. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting on the Seekonk River is restricted

to discharge toward open water (seaward).

- 1.9.2 Warwick - Brush Neck Cove, so-called, in its entirety. Mill Cove, so-called, in its entirety, including the beachfront. Buttonwoods Cove, so-called, in its entirety.
- 1.9.3 North Kingstown - Mill Cove, Wickford, so called, in its entirety. Fishing Cove, Wickford, area west of a line to be determined bisecting Cornelius Island. All discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge in an easterly direction from the above line. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will establish the line of demarcation.
- 1.9.4 Charlestown – Watchaug Pond and Poquiant Brook, or hunting within 100 yards upland of the shore or bank of same.
- 1.9.5 Tiverton - That unnamed estuary in Tiverton, north of Seapowet Avenue and east of Jack's Island, bounded on the west, south, and east shore by the R.I. Audubon Society's Emile Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, and as posted by R.I. Audubon and Department of Environmental Management signs. The effected area includes the inlet of this estuary and marshland on the north side of this outlet.
- 1.9.6 Middletown – Sachuest Point (NWR) shoreline below mean high water to mean low water surrounding the National Wildlife Refuge property is closed to all hunting. No hunting along shoreline.
- 1.9.7 Lincoln/Central Falls – Pursuant to RIGL 11-47-49.1, discharge of a firearm within the Blackstone Valley Flood Plains or Marshes, also known as “Valley Marshes” is prohibited.

## **1.10 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS**

- 1.10.1 Barrington - The Barrington River between Central Bridge at Massasoit Avenue and Barrington Bridge #123 at County Road is closed to hunting, except for that section designated by DEM markers on the river off Puritan Avenue and Seabrook Park. Hunting shall be restricted to the water areas below the vegetation line, and between the DEM markers. Discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).
- 1.10.2 Bristol - Walker Island - discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open waters (seaward).
- 1.10.3 East Providence - Check local ordinances for restrictions. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).
- 1.10.4 Warwick - Rock Island and its adjacent groin extending northward off Narragansett Parkway. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

1.10.5 Cranston – Washouset Point (Pawtuxet Cove) north to Fields Point including Stillhouse Cove, the discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge towards open water (seaward). No hunting within 500 feet of occupied buildings (RIGL 20-13-7) from the shoreline or from a watercraft.

1.10.6 Little Compton - All waterfowl hunters must have the following to hunt the Simmons Mill Pond ONLY in the Simmons Mill Management Area: (a) waterfowl decoys; (b) retrieving breed of hunting dog, and/or a boat without motor, or canoe without motor.

1.10.7 North Kingstown - Waterfowl hunting on Belleville Pond is restricted to the northwest segment of the large pond as designated by DEM signs. The discharge of firearms is restricted toward open waters. Waterfowl hunting is permitted after November 15 by Town Ordinance. Firearms must remain cased until individual reaches hunting area.(blind or boat).

**1.11 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY** – Saturday and Sunday October 22 and 23, 2011 will be Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in Rhode Island.

1.11.1 Youth hunters must be 12 - 14.

1.11.2 An adult at least 21 years of age must be in the immediate company of the young hunter. The accompanying adult and all adults are prohibited from hunting on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day.

1.11.3 Both the youth hunter and the accompanying adult must have current Rhode Island hunting licenses and state HIP permit.

## **PART 2**

# **MATUNUCK HUNTER/LANDOWNER COOPERATIVE AREA AND SOUTH SHORE MANAGEMENT AREA (SSMA) 2011-2012**

### **2.1 PERMITS**

Permits to hunt the **South Shore Management Area (SSMA)** may be obtained by mailing a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope [9 ½" X 4 ¼"], to Goose Permit, RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892. Include your telephone number. Permits will be available October 1, 2011.

2.1.1 SSMA permits must be carried while waterfowl hunting on the SSMA and must be shown to any DEM Environmental Police Officer or Division of Fish and Wildlife employee upon request.

2.1.2 All party members must have a permit and must be registered when reserving a field.

2.1.3 No hunting party shall exceed four (4) hunters.

2.1.4 Permittees may only hunt in the fields reserved for their party.

### **2.2 RESERVATIONS**

All reservations must be made by telephone (401) 789-0964 Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon daily (subject to change).

2.2.1 Reservations may be made no earlier than seven (7) business days in advance of the hunt.

2.2.2 For the purpose of determining number of days for hunting, a week shall be Sunday through the following Saturday.

2.2.3 Permittees will be allowed to hunt a maximum of two-half days per week (Sunday through Saturday). No one will be allowed to hunt two consecutive days. Half days will be divided from one half hour before sunrise until 11:30 am and noon until sunset.

2.2.4 All upland hunting is prohibited during regular goose season.

2.2.5 If unable to hunt, please cancel your reservation so others may hunt.

### **2.3 BLINDS**

Portable blinds, nets, tarps, or similar forms of concealment are permitted. The use of natural vegetation to build blinds is also permitted, however removal of stones

from walls or vegetation from hedgerows is prohibited.

2.3.1 **Pit Blinds:** Pits may not be dug. Pit blinds are available in state-owned fields (3, 4, 5, and 6) and federally owned field 1.

2.3.2 Handicapped accessible blind is available in field #5.

**2.4 DECOYS:** A minimum of twenty-four (24) life size or oversize goose decoys is required on premises. However, hunters may choose to use fewer decoys while hunting.

**2.5 HARVEST REPORT: A Harvest Record Report must be completed and returned whether or not you hunted and regardless of success.** Failure to report will result in the loss of hunting privileges on the SSMA for the 2012-2013 season. Return the Harvest Record card to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892 no later than March 1, 2012.

## **2.6 SHOT**

2.6.1 No person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel shot, or other legally approved non-toxic shot.

2.6.2 Non-toxic shot larger than BB is prohibited, including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB.

## **2.7 VEHICLES**

2.7.1 Vehicles may park in designated areas only.

2.7.2 Overnight parking is prohibited in designated areas.

2.7.3 Vehicles may not drive into or along the edge of any field for any reason. (Except in an emergency, e.g., accident or injury or as provided in section 8.2 of these regulations.)

## **2.8 ACCESSIBILITY program for waterfowl hunters who are handicapped:**

2.8.1 Upon request, Field #5 will have an accessible above-ground blind. The blind will be established by the Division in either a hedgerow or within standing crop rows (i.e., standing corn).

2.8.2 Vehicles may be driven into the field to transport a handicapped hunter and his equipment only when field conditions are conducive (i.e., not during and after heavy rain conditions when the ground is very muddy).

2.8.3 Goose hunters applying for the accessibility program must provide a statement signed by a medical doctor stating that the handicap meets the following definition:  
A person temporarily or permanently handicapped (i.e., unable to walk without



the assistance of crutches or wheelchair or with a chronic medical condition).

2.8.4 All regulations for hunting geese in the SSMA shall apply.

**2.9 PROHIBITED:** The following is prohibited: Littering; fires; destruction of fencing, equipment, farm property, and standing crops; possession or use of alcoholic beverages; shooting within 500 feet of an occupied building; shooting near or otherwise disturbing persons working in the area; urinating or defecating in pit blinds.

**OTHER HUNTING REGULATIONS:** The following types of hunting are available in the SSMA during different portions of the hunting season:

**2.9.1 Dove hunting** is allowed in Fields 5 and 6 during the early dove season.

**2.9.2 Upland hunting** is allowed only in field units 5 and 6 during the upland game season **except** during the regular Canada goose seasons\*.

**2.9.3 Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of Field 5 and 6, **except** during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is in place.

**2.9.4 Deer hunting during the archery season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of Fields 3, 5, and 6 throughout the archery season, including during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is in place.

**2.9.5 Deer hunting during shotgun season** is allowed ONLY in Field 6 and its wooded portions, **except** during the regular Canada goose season.

**2.9.6 Waterfowl hunting** is allowed outside of the regular Canada goose season (11/19/11– 11/27/11 and 12/3/11 – 1/22/12) but within legal waterfowl seasons without special hunting permits, reservations, or decoy restrictions, once fields are harvested.

**\*Upland hunting** is prohibited during the regular Canada goose season.

**2.11 DUCKS DURING LEGAL DUCK SEASONS:** The taking of ducks during the legal duck seasons is permitted while goose hunting under the above regulations.

**2.12 VIOLATIONS** of any above regulations, state management area regulations, and/or any state or federal hunting laws will result in loss of hunting privileges on the SSMA for a period of one year, beginning from the date of the violation.

**Part 3**  
**SPECIAL REGULATION – STATE WATERFOWL STAMP**  
**2011-2012**

All hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older are required by law to purchase a Rhode Island State Waterfowl stamp as well as a Federal Waterfowl stamp.

The 2011 – 2012 stamp (\$7.50) will be at participating vendors (RIGL 20-2-37) The stamp must be **signed by the hunter** across the face of the stamp **in the presence of the issuing agent** and carried at all times when hunting.

## **RULE 8 EFFECTIVE DATE**

The foregoing Rules and Regulations - **RI Waterfowl Regulations for the 2011 - 2012 Season**, after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter, 42-35, 42-17.1, and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

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Janet Coit, Director  
Department of Environmental Management

Notice Given:Public Hearing: 08/29/2011

Filing Date:  
Effective Date: